reasonableness. It is quite obvious that the idea of the account is
that God, if He was a ~~good~~ skillful workman at all, would prepare the garden
before he brought the man to put in it. The whole implication of the
passage is that God planted this garden and some years later, perhaps
ten, perhaps twenty, perhaps a hundred, He created man and put him in
the garden. Regardless ~~of the time element~~ of the amount of time in-
volved it is certainly clear that the passage means to teach that the
particular garden ~~the~~ was planted before the man was created eventhough
it is quite logical to mention the important fact of the man's creation
first before mentioning the fact of the particular garden which was pre-
pared to fit him in it. Thus we have here not an account of the vege-
tation at all but merely a reference to planting a particular garden
and even this does not come after the creation of man, but before it.
This alleged second account of creation then contains none of the many
elements involved in creation except only man and the animals, the cre-
ation of no other part of the universe is specifically alluded to. Here
it is necessary, however, that we scientifically examine the statements
about the animals and find out whether we have indeed an account of the
creation of man first and then an account of creation of animals, or
whether the situation is quite different. We find that the reference
to this is in verse 19. It is well to examine the context. No word or
sentence is capable of correct interpretation without examination of
context. In any field of scientific study it is very important to see the
conditions under which data appear. A word alone does not mean anything.
It is a question of what is said about the word. Here we find that verses
18 to 25 describe the preparation of a help meet for man. After the
statement is made in verse 18 that God says He will make a help meet for
man it says that God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of
the air and brought them to Adam but (verse 20) for Adam there was not
found a help meet for him. This is not in the context an attempt to